

Green Mountain Care Board
General Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2020
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Advisory Committee Member Attendees	Gail Auclair*, Bob Bick, Walter Carpenter, Michael Durkin (in Micah Demers stead), Rick Dooley, Allison Ebrahimi-Gold, Jason Garbarino*, Kathy Mahoney, Jeffrey McKee* Andrew Miller, Mark Nunlist*, David Sichel, James Ulager*
GMCB Attendees	Kevin Mullin, Jessica Holmes, Tom Pelham, Robin Lunge, Maureen Usifer, Susan Barrett, Amerin Aborjaily, Christina McLaughlin
Other Attendees	Michael Fisher, Jennifer Kaulius, Kirsten Murphy, Cathy Fulton
* Attended by phone	

1. Review of 2019 meetings and updates
 - a. Christina McLaughlin reviewed the 2019 meeting topics and reminded the committee the upcoming meeting will be held on June 8, 2020, September 21, 2020 and February 8, 2021. At the recent September meeting, committee members asked to discuss and recommend ways to control health care costs in Vermont while ensuring access to high quality care. For future meeting topics committee members will be asked to email proposed topics to Christina. Meeting discussion topics will be selected based on, 1. Board's authority, 2) popularity, and 3) timeliness. Christina will share documents and information relating to the topic so committee members can prepare accordingly before advising the Board at the Advisory meetings. Members were asked to notify Christina by March 1, 2020 if they are no longer able to participate on the committee.
 - b. **Follow-up for committee members:** If you are no longer able to participate on the GMCB General Advisory Committee, please let Christina know by March 1st.
2. Ideas for improving Vermont's health care system
 - a. The committee members proposed and discussed ideas for improving Vermont's health care system:
 - Increase awareness and transparency of prescription drug prices and how much Vermont Medicaid spends on drugs. Insurers and the state should look at drug utilization and outcomes to make informed decisions. There are many entities involved in drug pricing and purchasing (Department of Vermont Health Access, Board of Pharmacy, Vermont insurers, and federal government), which makes it difficult to figure out how to lower costs. Board Member Robin Lunge recommended the Board host a panel about prescription drugs and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Currently, the Vermont legislature is discussing ways the state could possibly have more control and transparency over prescription drug prices. Members shared specific examples as to how hospitals and patients could save money. For example, IV Tylenol costs much more than Tylenol pills when administered in the hospital and most of the time, IV Tylenol is not necessary. Providing patients with the oral pill rather than IV would save the system a lot of money. Board Members Jessica Holmes asked committee members to suggest a short list of drugs that could save hospitals and patients money, like the IV Tylenol example.

- Vermont requires additional medical staff and the state needs to figure out how to draw people here, although any plan would require money. Robin Lunge mentioned the Rural Health Services Task Force provided recommendations regarding workforce to the legislature recently.
 - Concierge health care was discussed as a solution to unaffordable health care. One potential issue with concierge doctors is they can select their patients based on who is able to pay the fee, limiting access to low-income Vermonters.
- b. Members suggested a few topics to potentially discuss at the June 2020 meeting including, 1) population health, 2) access and health of Vermont's hospitals, and 3) qualified health plan (QHP) designs
 - c. **Follow-up for committee members:** Please send Christina suggested topic(s) to discuss at our June 8th meeting by Wednesday, February 26th.
3. Public Comment
 - a. Cathy Fulton
Michael Fisher
 4. Adjourn